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Letter dated 29 August 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the State of Eritrea has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2019–2021 for the seats allocated to the African States in the elections to be held in October 2019. During its thirty-third ordinary session, the Executive Council of the African Union endorsed the candidature of Eritrea to the Human Rights Council (see Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.1008-1030(XXXIII)).

In this regard, the Government of the State of Eritrea has the honour to transmit its statement of voluntary pledges and commitments for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Amanuel **Giorgio**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/73/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Eritrea to the Human Rights Council, 2019–2021

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. Eritrea is seeking membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2019–2021 in the elections to be held in October 2018. During its thirty-third ordinary session, the Executive Council of the African Union endorsed the candidature of Eritrea to the Human Rights Council (see Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.1008-1030(XXXIII)). Eritrea's interest in serving in the Council reflects its determination and its commitment to contributing to the effective implementation of the underlying principles of the human rights architecture of the United Nations, which befit the lofty ideals of humanity.

2. Consistent with its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, Eritrea is a party to core regional and international human rights instruments, including the following:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)

3. In accordance with resolution 60/251, in which the General Assembly established the Human Rights Council, and with due regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and all other international and regional human rights instruments to which Eritrea is a party, Eritrea presents its voluntary pledges below.

I. Protecting and promoting human rights at the national level

4. Eritrea is a safe, peaceful and stable nation with remarkable harmony among its diverse population. Its evolving political system seeks to foster the broadest possible

participation of its citizens at home and abroad, at all levels and in all of the affairs of the nation. Eritrea is working to build a justice system based on a body of laws, including the supreme law of the land.

5. Eritrea is committed to development that is sustained and equitable and that supports the material, social and cultural aspirations of the people, in particular the youth. After years of difficulty, the foundation for broad-based growth is being laid lesson by lesson, brick by brick and institution by institution. As many who have partnered with it will confirm, Eritrea makes judicious and effective use of available resources. National ownership and national responsibility are the pillars of its approach to nation-building. Eritrea makes the following pledges:

(a) To accelerate its efforts to complete the people-centred nation-building project of creating a peaceful and prosperous country without discrimination along regional, ethnic, linguistic, religious, gender or class lines, and to ensure macroeconomic stability, strengthen the participatory political system and the rule of law, and create efficient, responsive and transparent institutions;

(b) To foster harmony among different sectors of the country, protect the equal rights of all citizens in law and in practice, and combat and eradicate all forms of discrimination, exclusion and marginalization through increased social and economic investment aimed at expanding opportunities to historically underprivileged areas;

(c) To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the national coordination body for the universal periodic review, composed of representatives from line ministries and civil society organizations, in order to enable it to monitor the implementation of recommendations issuing from the review in a timely manner;

(d) To ensure the supremacy of and respect for the law, increase the accessibility, efficiency, transparency and accountability of the judicial system and of measures of redress at all levels in the public and private sectors and to enhance and implement national laws to further promote and protect rights;

(e) To enhance the capacities of law enforcement in Eritrea to ensure human security, combat transnational organized crime and promote the rule of law;

(f) To strive to ensure the equal participation of women in all areas and encourage them to protect and promote their rights by organizing among themselves and, in that regard, accelerate the implementation of the National Gender Action Plan aimed at empowering women and combating and eradicating all forms of violence against women;

(g) To further expand opportunities for persons with disabilities to live in dignity, become self-sufficient and contribute to the society in which they live;

(h) To mainstream regional and international human rights instruments to which Eritrea is a party into its national programmes and institutions on the basis of national priorities and context.

II. Promoting international partnerships and dialogue on human rights

6. Eritrea is a modest regional and global actor that is independent, constructive, active and conscious. Eritrea believes in solidarity among nations and peoples and in genuine and mutually beneficial partnerships.

7. Eritrea further believes that international engagement in the promotion and protection of human rights should be aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to fulfil their national priorities and international obligations. The international community should address conditions that impede the full enjoyment of all human rights. Discussions on human rights cannot be meaningful without addressing

poverty, instability, occupation and unjustified sanctions that significantly impact the rights of peoples to live in peace, harmony and development. Eritrea makes the following additional pledges:

(a) To expand its regional and international engagement with a view to fostering mutual understanding, resolving conflicts and promoting peace, development and respect for human dignity and to advocate the balanced and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) To continue its active engagement in regional and international forums in order to promote genuine and constructive dialogue in the area of human rights, based on the principle that human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;

(c) To fulfil its reporting obligations in respect of regional and international human rights mechanisms and develop a framework to map their timely submissions and to submit its fifth periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and its sixth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(d) To continue its engagement and technical cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);

(e) To take the measures necessary to expedite the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

(f) To advocate the protection of the rights of migrants with a view to enhancing their contribution to their countries of origin and destination and to strengthen international cooperation to combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

(g) To enhance its cooperation with the mechanisms of the Council by facilitating visits by the special procedures mandate holders, to whom it has already extended an invitation.

III. Advocating an effective and credible Human Rights Council

8. Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and all human rights should be treated in an equal manner. Eritrea believes that dialogue and cooperation enhance the effectiveness of global human rights mechanisms. Conversely, confrontation, double standards and politicization contribute to polarization and the erosion of the credibility of these mechanisms. If elected as a member of the Council, Eritrea further pledges the following:

(a) To work towards a more effective and credible Council and conduct inclusive, cross-regional and transparent dialogue in the protection and promotion of human rights across all countries and regions;

(b) To advocate equal treatment by the Council in its deliberations and decisions with regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(c) To work to strengthen support and cooperation in respect of the universal periodic review, recognizing it as the most effective mechanism to promote human rights through dialogue and technical assistance;

(d) To advocate meaningful participation by the least developed countries in the universal periodic review and human rights treaty bodies through technical and financial assistance and through mainstreaming reporting obligations;

(e) To encourage and support constructiwe contributions from non-governmental organizations and civil society organizaitions;

(f) To advocate and work to enhance the capacitty of OHCHR to provide technical support to Member States.